

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A lift apparatus for use in working on engines, comprising:
 - a) four vertically oriented support posts spaced apart from one another;
 - b) a platform extending between and supported by the posts, the platform comprising support structure and decking on top of the support structure, there being an opening in the support structure and the decking, which opening is structured and arranged to receive an engine;-
 - c) a lifting mechanism to raise and lower the platform along the posts;-
 - d) a guard rail around the opening, the decking extending from the guard rail to an outside edge of the platform.
2. (Currently Amended) The lift apparatus of claim 1, wherein the guard rail is a first guard rail, further comprising a second guard rail located in proximity to the outside edge of the platform. ~~further comprising a guard rail around the opening.~~
3. (Original) The lift apparatus of claim 1 wherein the platform decking further comprises filler plates that surround the opening, the filler plates allowing the size of the opening to be adjusted.

4. (Original) The lift apparatus of claim 1 wherein the opening is circular.
5. (Original) The lift apparatus of claim 1 wherein the support structure further comprises a hoop-shaped beam located around the opening.
6. (Original) The lift apparatus of claim 5 wherein the hoop-shaped beam is coupled to the support structure by tangential members.
7. (Original) The lift apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a controller lift mechanism.
8. (Original) The lift apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
 - a) the platform decking further comprises filler plates that surround the opening, the filler plates allowing the size of the opening to be adjusted;
 - b) the support structure further comprises a hoop-shaped beam located around the opening;
 - c) the hoop-shaped structure is coupled to the support structure by tangential members.
9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) An apparatus, comprising:
 - a) vertically oriented support posts spaced apart from one another;
 - b) a platform extending between and supported by the posts, the platform comprising support structure and decking on top of the support structure, there being an opening in the support structure and the decking, which opening is structured and arranged to receive an engine;
 - c) a lifting mechanism to raise and lower the platform along the posts;
 - d) a vertically oriented engine located inside of the opening.
11. (New) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the engine comprises an aircraft engine.
12. (New) The lift apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a guard rail around the opening.
13. (New) The lift apparatus of claim 10 wherein the platform decking further comprises filler plates that surround the opening, the filler plates allowing the size of the opening to be adjusted.
14. (New) The lift apparatus of claim 10 wherein the support structure further comprises a hoop-shaped beam located around the opening.

15. (New) The lift apparatus of claim 14 wherein the hoop-shaped beam is coupled to the support structure by tangential members.
16. (New) The lift apparatus of claim 10 further comprising a controller lift mechanism.
17. (New) The lift apparatus of claim 10 wherein:
 - a) the platform decking further comprises filler plates that surround the opening, the filler plates allowing the size of the opening to be adjusted;
 - b) the support structure further comprises a hoop-shaped beam located around the opening;
 - c) the hoop-shaped structure is coupled to the support structure by tangential members.